

CLAIMS

1. A method to identify a computer system, comprising:

a step of acquiring identification information constituted by a plurality of identification items from an identification-target computer system;

a step of comparing, in accordance with said identification items, said acquired identification information with identification information of identification-target computer systems registered in advance;

a step of integrating coefficients about discordant ones of said identification items of said identification information so as to obtain an integrated value, said coefficients being defined for said identification items respectively; and

a step of judging whether said identification-target computer system can be identified or not, on the basis of said integrated value and a predetermined threshold value.

2. A method according to Claim 1, wherein said step includes:

a step of concluding that said identification-target computer system can be identified when said integrated value is 0; and

a step of concluding that said identification-target computer system cannot be

09875874-060001

identified when said integrated value is not smaller than said threshold value.

3. A method according to Claim 2, further comprising:

a step of judging whether said identification-target computer system can be identified or not in accordance with the number of said discordant identification items of said identification information when said integrated value is larger than 0 and smaller than said threshold value.

4. A method according to Claim 3, wherein:

it is concluded that said identification-target computer system can be identified when the number of said discordant identification items of said identification information is 1.

5. A method according to Claim 1, wherein said registration of identification information of said identification-target computer system includes:

a step of acquiring identification information constituted by a plurality of identification items from said identification-target computer system;

a step of comparing, in accordance with said identification items, said acquired identification information with registered identification information of identification-target computer systems;

a step of integrating coefficients about discordant ones of said identification items of said

09875874-060801

identification information so as to obtain an integrated value, said coefficients being defined for said identification items respectively; and

a step of judging whether said acquired identification information is allowed to be registered or not, on the basis of said integrated value and a predetermined threshold value.

6. A method according to Claim 5, wherein: in said step, it is concluded that said acquired identification information is allowed to be registered and said acquired identification information is registered when said integrated value is not smaller than said threshold value.

7. A method to identify a user system in a maintenance service system having user systems and a center system, comprising the steps of:

acquiring identification information from a user system;

comparing said acquired identification information with identification information of registered users registered in said center system in advance; and

identifying a registered user in accordance with a difference between said acquired identification information and said registered identification information compared with each other.

8. A method according to Claim 7, wherein: said identification information includes any

09875874-050001

one of identification information items of computer name, IP address, MAC address and processor type of said user system;

weighting coefficients set for said identification information items respectively and a threshold value for judging whether a registered user can be identified or not are registered in said center system;

said acquired identification information is compared with said identification information registered in said center system, in accordance with said identification information items;

said weighting coefficients are integrated about discordant ones of said identification information items so as to obtain an integrated value;

said integrated value is compared with said threshold value; and

said user system is identified as an unregistered user when said integrated value is not smaller than said threshold value.

9. An apparatus to identify a computer system comprising:

an identifier registration portion for storing an identifier constituted by a plurality of identification items for identifying an identification-target computer system;

an identifier reception portion for acquiring an identifier from said identification-target computer

09875874-060801

system; and

an identification judgement portion for comparing said identifier in said identifier registration portion with said identifier acquired by said identifier reception portion, and judging whether said identification-target computer system can be identified or not.

10. An apparatus to identify a computer system according to Claim 9, further comprising:

an identifier weighting coefficient registration portion constituted by weighting coefficients set for said identification items respectively, and a threshold value for judging whether said identification-target computer system can be identified or not;

wherein said identification judgement portion compares said acquired identifier with said registered identifier in accordance with said identification information items, integrates said weighting coefficients about discordant ones of said identification information items respectively so as to form an integrated value, compares said integrated value with said threshold value, and concludes that said identification-target computer system cannot be identified when said integrated value is not smaller than said threshold value.

11. An apparatus to identify a computer system according to Claim 9, further comprising:

00875374-060801
100000-4287460

a registration reception portion for registering an identification-target computer system in said identifier registration portion;

wherein said registration reception portion compares said identifier in said identifier registration portion with said identifier acquired by said identifier reception portion, so as to judge whether said identification-target computer system is allowed to be registered or not.

12. An apparatus to identify a computer system according to Claim 11, further comprising:

an identifier weighting coefficient registration portion constituted by weighting coefficients set for said identification items respectively, and a threshold value for judging whether said identification-target computer system can be identified or not;

wherein said registration reception portion compares said acquired identifier with said registered identifier in accordance with said identification information items, integrates said weighting coefficients about discordant ones of said identification information items so as to form an integrated value, compares said integrated value with said threshold value, and registers said acquired identifier newly when said integrated value is not smaller than said threshold value.

108090-42852860